

Aberdeen Fire Department

Annual Report



2011



CITY OF ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dave Carlberg, Fire Chief Rich Malizia, Assistant Chief

March 29, 2012
Honorable Bill Simpson, Mayor
City of Aberdeen

Mayor Simpson,

I respectfully submit to you and the City Council, the following annual report that records the activities of the Aberdeen Fire Department for the year 2011.

The City of Aberdeen provides fire protection within the city boundaries servicing 16,500 residents over 10.5 square miles. In addition, we provide fire and or EMS protection to Fire Districts 10 and 15, Cosmopolis, Bigelow Drive and Stafford Creek Corrections. Fire and EMS are provided through two fire stations staffed 24/7 at each facility.

Information recently released by the National Fire Protection Agency indicates public fire departments responded to 1,331,500 fires in the United States. These fires caused an estimated 3,120 civilian deaths and 17,720 injuries and more than 11.5 billion in property damage. A fire department responds to a fire in the United States every 24 seconds. 80% of all fires occur in residential properties. 85% of all fatalities occur in the home.

In 2011 the Aberdeen Fire Department responded to a total of **5,232** calls for service. Fire losses for the year totaled \$1,087,106. Based on the collection of data, \$1,087,106 of total fire loss represents 60.2% of total property lost versus \$718,797 or 39.8% of total property saved. Overall, there were a total of nine incidents throughout the year that required a second alarm or greater escalation in which resources beyond the daily staffing were needed. We are also now tracking mutual aid and automatic response data for this report. The Activity levels are broken down as follows:

392 Fire Responses (26 Hazardous Materials)
820 Engine Medical Assists
4,020 Total Medical Responses

The department's average response time in 2011 was **5 minutes 41 seconds** to all reported fire incidents. This includes an average two minutes of "turnout time" or the time it takes for the initial dispatch to the first unit responding. This falls within the National Fire Protection Agency's goal for a fire department to arrive within six minutes to an incident 90% of the time.

On July 5, 2011, a major fire occurred at the former Croatian Hall at 219 NW Blvd. This incident is explained in more detail within this report, but again emphasizes the ever growing problem we have with both legal and illegal fireworks in our community. This was one of two significant incidents that occurred two days apart involving fireworks caused fires.

The fire service continues to be the leader for EMS in the United States. A recent study by the Federal Inter-Agency Committee on EMS concluded that 40% of all EMS delivered nation wide is now fire based, followed by private non-hospital (25%) and government non-fire (21%).

Again a most outstanding achievement for 2011 is a total of 88 documented medical saves. These are patients who most likely would not have survived without qualified medical intervention by our firefighter/paramedics. EMS response time averaged **4 minutes, 17 seconds** within the city.

In 2011 we replaced our oldest medic unit by retrofitting a new chassis and a reconditioned patient compartment. This medic unit now has a 2011 Ford chassis and a completely reconditioned box that was upgraded with all new lighting and other equipment. The rehabbed unit saves approximately 20% of the cost verses the option of building new.

Early in the year BC Damon Lillybridge secured an energy grant to update lighting and heating equipment for both stations that meet new energy standards. In the early spring of 2011 the city was able to procure funds to purchase the building immediately west of the main fire station. It was decided to use this space for the administrative operation, thereby providing additional workspace and storage at the main fire station. The project completion date is scheduled for the spring of this year.

With revenue now being collected for hazardous materials spill mitigation, we were able to partially restore the grade school fire and injury prevention education. Our public education teams visited elementary grades K-3 at McDermoth, AJ West, Robert Gray, Stevens and St. Mary's schools.

I would like to thank the various team leaders and staff members who helped compile the material for this annual report. I would also like to thank the City Council and the Public Safety Committee for the immense support they have given the department. We have again made some important accomplishments in the direction of improving life safety and property conservation for our citizens.

Respectfully,

Dave Carlberg, Fire Chief
City of Aberdeen

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Cover by FF/P Dave Swinhart – July 5, 2011 – Commercial structure fire at 219 NW Blvd. (Photo by Battalion Chief Bill Mayne)

ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Administration

Fire Chief
Dave Carlberg

Assistant Chief
Rich Malizia

Administrative Assistant
Susie Johnson

Accounting Assistant
Bonita Greninger

Operations

<u>SHIFT1</u>	<u>SHIFT 2</u>	<u>SHIFT3</u>
Battalion Chief Damon Lillybridge S.O.	Battalion Chief Bill Mayne	Battalion Chief/P Tom Hubbard
Captain/P Wally Montz T.O. Captain Kelly Niemi	Captain Mark Dulin T.O. Captain/P Troy Palmer	Captain JR Streifel Captain/P Dave Golding T.O.
Engineer/P Steve Pratt Engineer/P Ryan Knodel EMC FF Jeremy Laier FF/P Chris Raffelson FF/P John Huber FF/P Jordan Scott FF/P Brandon Cline FF/P Adam Catterlin	Engineer/P Todd Bradshaw Engineer Sam Baretich FF/P Dave Swinhart FF Ron Smith FF/P Brian Newbill FF/P Isaac Gustafson FF Kevin Craig FF/P Brad Frafjord	Engineer/P Chad Mittleider Engineer Chris Eisele FF Mike Kolodzie FF/P Brian Peterson FF/P Dave Schreier FF/P Trevor Wheeler FF Wayne Fournier FF/P Mike Hughes

EMC - Emergency Medical Coordinator
T.O. - Department Training Officer
S.O. - Department Safety Officer

2011 Retirees

Engineer Brian Swanson

2011 Promotions

Engineer Ryan Knodel

2011 New Hires

Brandon Cline FF/P
Adam Catterlin FF/P

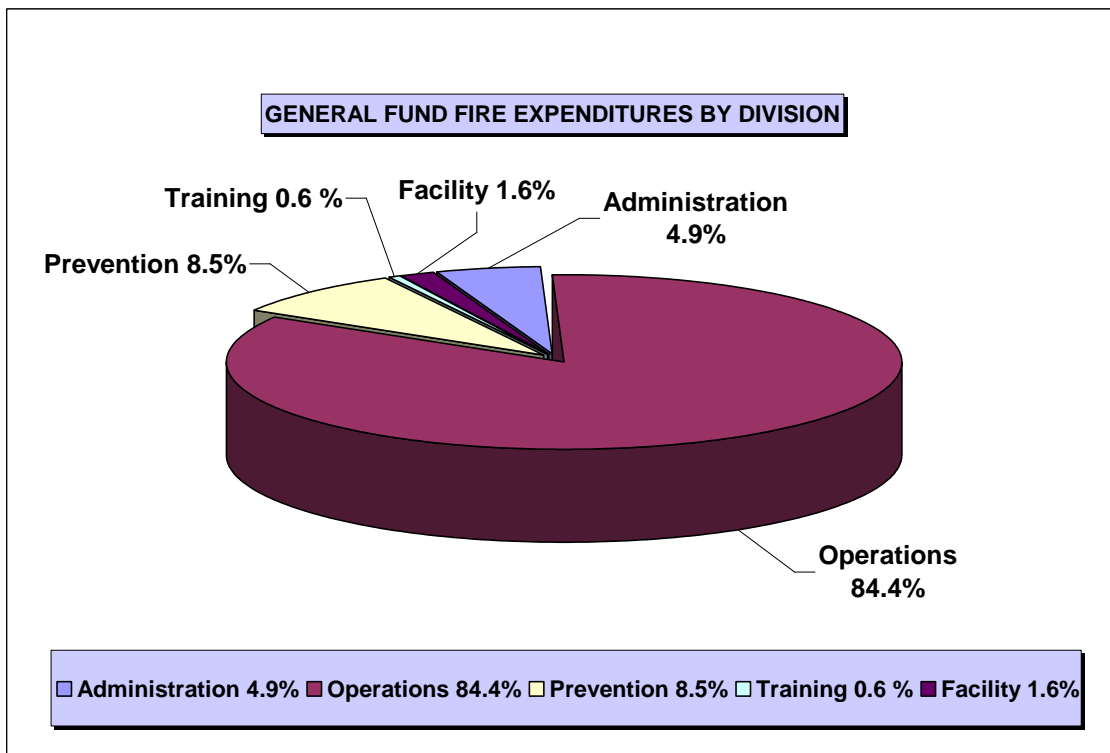
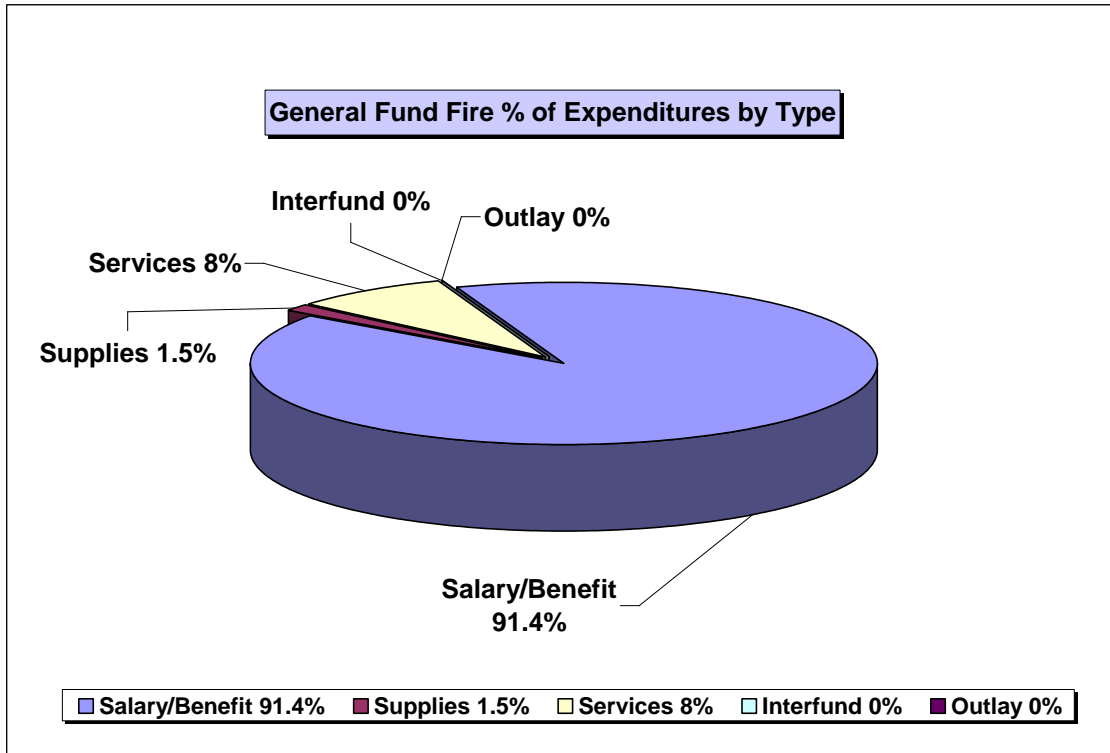


ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

To prevent harm to the public, and to protect property and the environment through fire suppression, fire prevention and emergency medical services 24 hours a day.

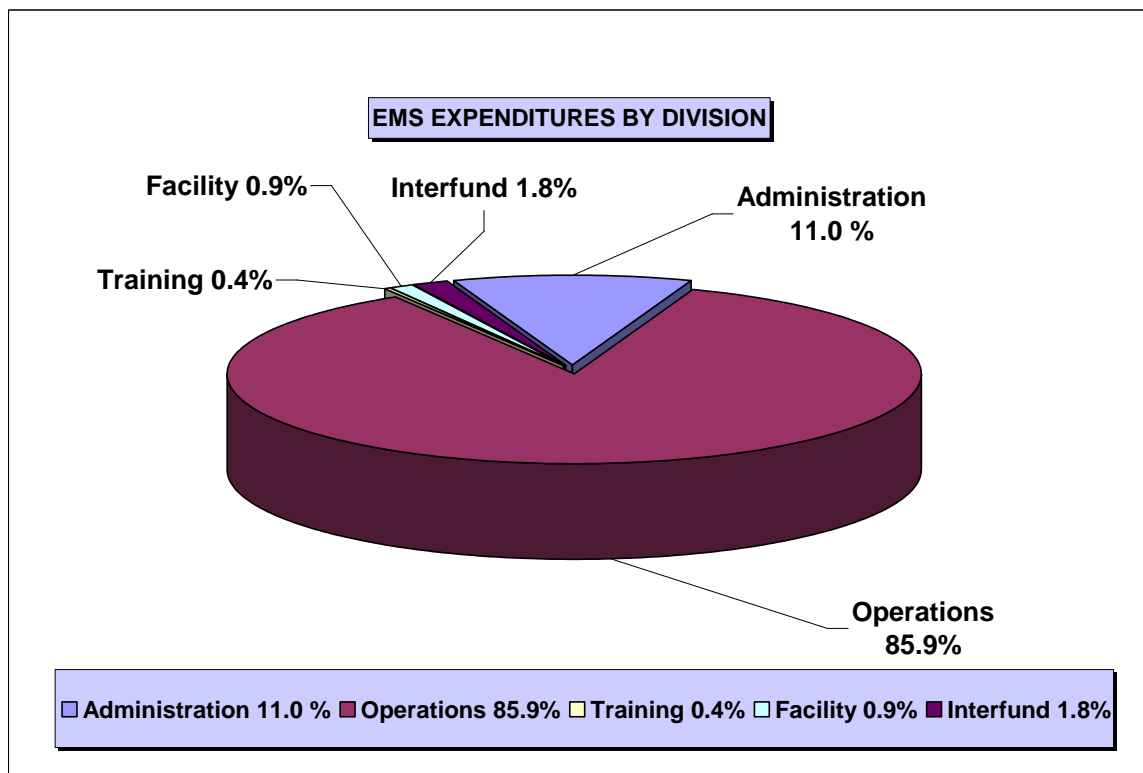
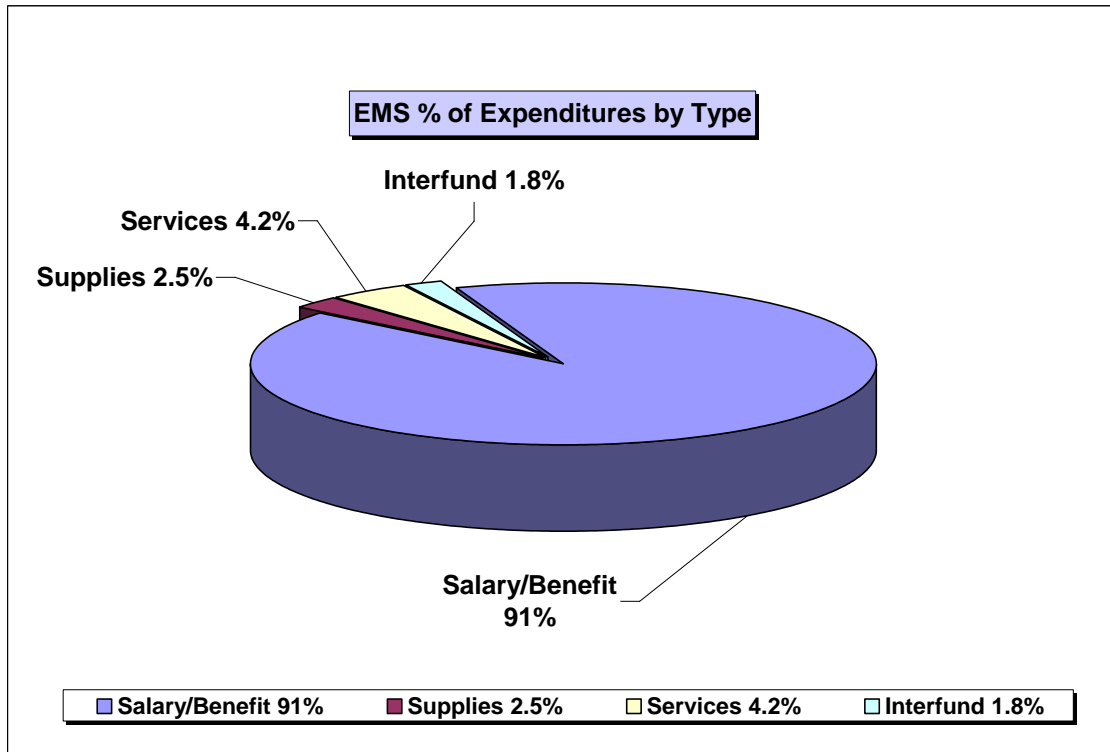
2011 Fire Operating Costs

In 2011, the cost of operating fire protection services totaled \$1,617,367. Salary and Benefit compensation accounts for the largest portion of the budget dollar (91.4%).



2011 EMS Operating Costs

In 2011 the cost of operating emergency medical services totaled \$2,285,064. Salary and Benefit compensation accounts for the largest portion of the budget dollar (91%).



Aberdeen Fire Department New Annex

In 2011 the City of Aberdeen acquired the building immediately to the west of the central fire station for additional office space. Remodeling of the former pawn shop began in the spring of 2011. The exterior was repainted and the main interior is being reconfigured to accommodate fire department administrative operations. Spaces were created for the administrative and fire prevention offices and space for administrative and medical record storage. Spaces being vacated in the main building are intended to be additional work stations and classrooms for training.



Installing new department sign with logo.



Interior office framing.



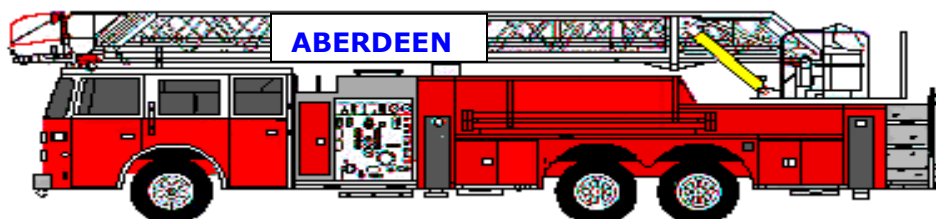
Main area for fire administration services and EMS billing.

INCIDENT BREAKDOWN FOR 2011

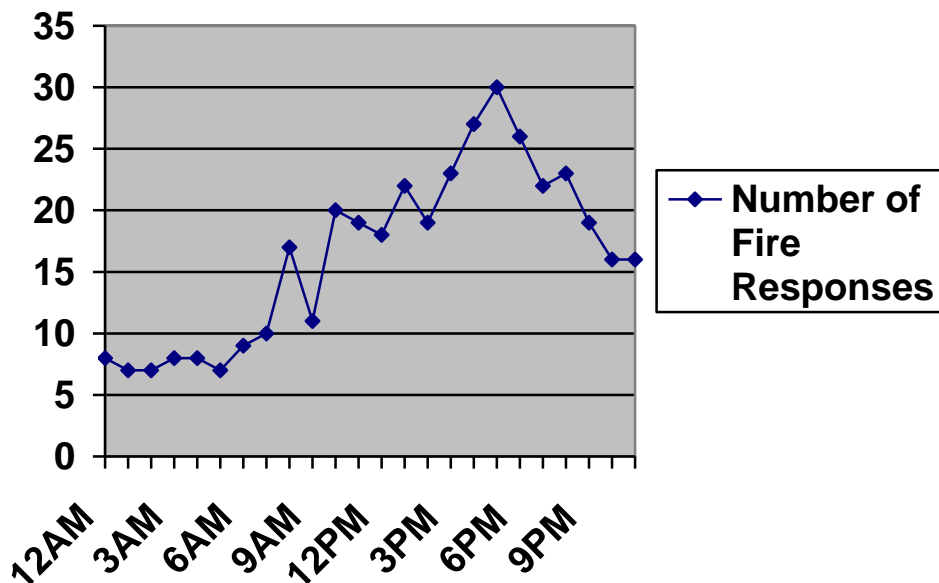
"OPERATIONS"

Fire department operations are handled from the north side headquarters station #1 and one sub station #2 located on the south side of the city. Operations consist of three shifts or platoons, supervised by a battalion chief. Thirty-three uniformed firefighters staff Fire & EMS operations. All personnel are cross-trained as either emergency medical technicians or paramedics.

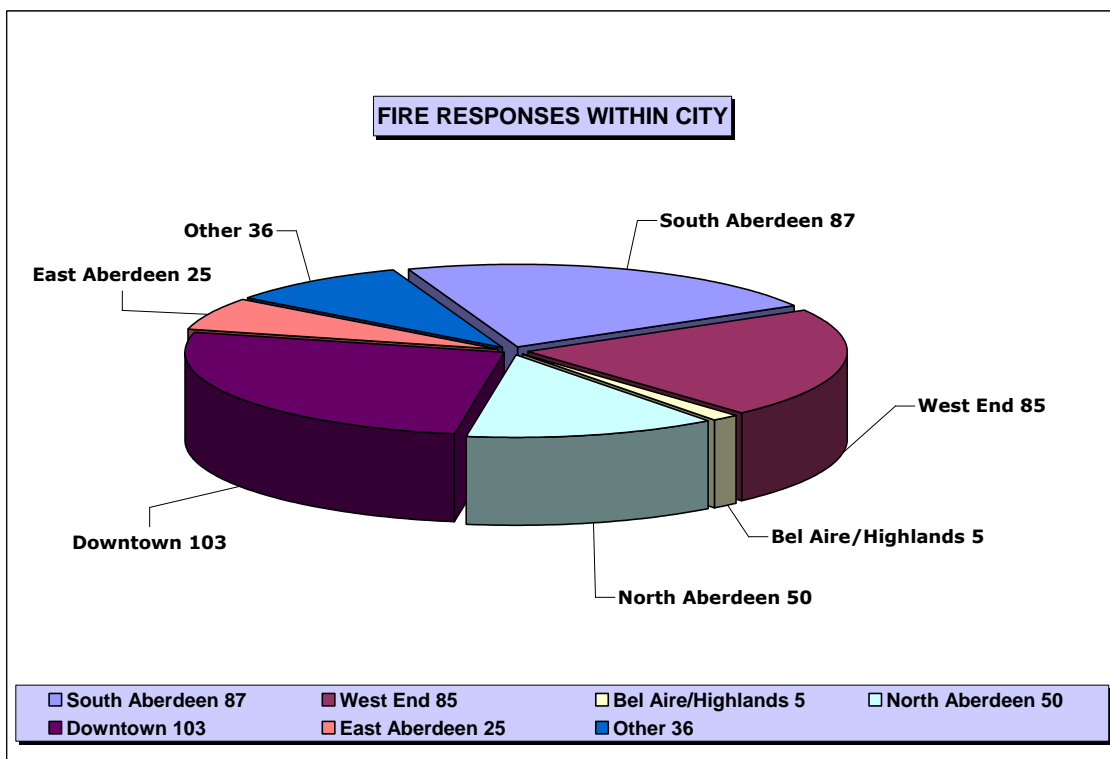
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
• Bridge Openings	255	272
• Building Fires	20	25
• Structure fires, (second alarm or greater)	9	7
• Hazardous Materials	26	38
• Vehicle Fire	16	23
• Wildland Fire	20	8
• Chimney Fire	9	9
• Trash Fire	25	27
• False Alarm	160	142
• Rescue	9	15
• Intentional Caused Fires	3	7
• Undetermined Caused Fires	25	20
• Mutual Aid Given	11	
• Mutual Aid Received	4	
• Automatic Response to HFD Given	19	
• Automatic Response to HFD Received	18	
• EMS Engine Assists	820	1,155
• Total EMS	4,020	4,280
• Total FIRE	392	390
• Total Activity	5,232	5,825
• Fire Related Fatalities	0	0
• Fire Related Injuries	2	3
• Firefighter Injuries	3	1
• TOTAL FIRE LOSS	\$1,087,106	\$1,362,003
• TOTAL PROPERTY SAVED	\$718,797	\$1,222,500



2011 Fire Suppression



The above chart indicates the number of fire related calls that occur in a 24 hour period (12:00 AM and 11:59 PM). As the chart indicates, fire call numbers are lowest between midnight and 9:00 AM, however during that time can be more serious due to delayed reporting of the alarm. Calls for fire services in 2011 show the most activity between 1:00 PM and 9:00 PM.



Fire responses can be tracked geographically. This chart shows the City of Aberdeen and the number of fire calls per response zone in which we provide service to.

CROATIAN HALL FIRE
219 NW BLVD.
July 5, 2011



At 04:25 hours, the Aberdeen Fire Department received a report of smoke coming from the roof of a commercial structure at 219 NW Blvd. The alarm was transmitted as an automatic response with the Hoquiam Fire Department with an assignment of two Engines, one Ladder, one Medic and one Battalion Chief.

The Aberdeen Fire Department is a fully career organization of 35 uniformed personnel that includes a Chief and Assistant Chief. There are three platoons consisting of 11 personnel each. The department operates out of two fire stations, and has an automatic aid agreement with the City of Hoquiam. Mutual aid agreements include all fire agencies within Grays Harbor County.

The fire building was constructed in 1922 and the site is located directly on NW Blvd. and Scott Streets between Tilden Street. The two story building was of ordinary type wood frame construction with a flat roof that was treated with a mopped tar sealant. The second story and 75% of the first story exterior walls were overlaid with aluminum siding. The material under the aluminum siding was cedar shakes. The building was not equipped with any type of fire protection systems.

The building was primarily used for storage by RB Construction of Aberdeen. It once housed the Zrinski Frankopan Croatian Lodge, a community and cultural center in South Aberdeen for Croatian immigrants and the many generations that came after them. No one was injured in the blaze, and 10 people were evacuated from the four-plex apartment immediately to the south of the building. A total of 12 fire units and

26 personnel responded, which included one unit from Hoquiam Fire and one from Cosmopolis Fire.

The Fire

Weather at the time of the alarm was overcast with no wind and temperatures remained around 60 degrees. A phone alarm was received by Grays Harbor E-911 communications center from a passerby at 04:25. Upon the arrival of Engine 7206 from fire station 2 in south Aberdeen, heavy brownish/black smoke was pushing from the soffits on all sides of the structure. The first and second floor windows were clear of fire and smoke. The officer of first arriving engine company immediately requested a 2nd alarm. Battalion 7232 arrived minutes later and while doing the initial assessment of the building, observed the cockloft and roof area become well involved with fire on all four sides.



Aerial view of roof trusses illustrates total destruction within cockloft.

A defensive strategy was employed to protect the first floor of the structure and the adjacent multi-family apartment building from fire damage. Ten people were eventually evacuated from this four-plex apartment immediately to the south of the building. A special call was made to Cosmopolis station 76 for additional resources. Due to the severity of the fire and the knowledge that there were no people living inside, firefighters did not enter and prioritized the attack of the fire from exterior. Master and aerial streams were placed in service at all four corners of the fire building. Emphasis was focused on keeping the fire from spreading to the nearby structures.

No one was injured in the blaze. The attic and second floor of the structure sustained significant fire damage and the building was deemed unstable from the combined fire and water damage.

Scene Processing

The processing of the fire scene occurred later in the morning. Due to structural instability issues with the building, scene processing focused on gathering evidence and interviewing witnesses. The building was owned by RB Construction of Aberdeen. Due to the structure being unsafe to enter, the building owners would eventually have it demolished.

Investigators determined the early morning blaze at the former Croatian Lodge was in all probability caused by fireworks. AFD investigators determined the fire most likely originated on the roof of the building as the result of fireworks. There was evidence that a multitude of fireworks, both legal and illegal, were being discharged in the general vicinity of the building on the night of July 4.

The building was insured and the estimated loss was determined to be \$91,850. The families evacuated from the apartment building adjacent to the hall were allowed to return home later in the morning. Again, no injuries were reported in connection with the fire.



Some of the many fireworks discharged in the area

Dave Carlberg, Chief of Department – Aberdeen Fire Department.

219 NW Blvd. Event Timeline

- 04:27 Passerby reports smoke coming from the roof of a building at NW Blvd. and Scott Streets.
- 04:28 **Dispatch** (Auto Response) Engines -7206, 7302, Truck- 7221, Medic- 7241, Battalion -7232 (Standard response - commercial structure fire).
- 04:30 Engine 7206 arrives on scene, reporting heavy smoke from the roof on all sides of a 2-story commercial building.
- 04:30 Engine 7206 strikes 2nd alarm.
- 04:30 **2nd Alarm** Engine 7204, Medic 7242 ,7243, 7244 , Utility 7261, Chiefs 7200, 7251, Safety Officer, 10 off duty FF (*Engine 7205- out of service*).
- 04:35 Adjacent apartment unit evacuated of occupants.
- 04:40 All units engaged in defensive operation and setting up master streams to protect nearby exposures.
- 05:10 (**Special Call**) Station 76 (Engine 7602).
- 07:31 All units clear with exception of Truck 7221.

Station ID

Station 72- City of Aberdeen
Station 73- City of Hoquiam
Station 76- City of Cosmopolis

Unit ID

00-Agency Chief
01-19-Engine or Tender
20-29-Truck
30-39-Command Unit
40-49-Ambulance/Medic/Rescue
50-59-Command/Staff/Chief Officer
60-69-Utility/Rescue
70-79-Marine
80+ -Individual/Staff

2011 Photos

June 6, 2011– Vacant House Fire - 210 North E Street

(Photos by Racheal Rose)



Capt. Kelly Niemi, Firefighters Scott & Knodel



B.C. Damon Lillybridge, Incident Commander



BC Lillybridge, Capt. Palmer & Eng. Baretich



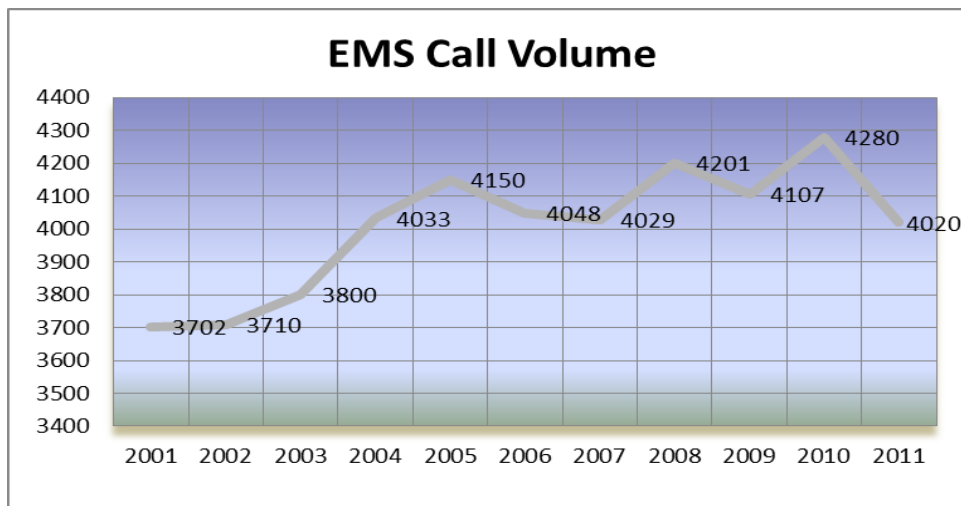
FF/P Mike Hughes



Truck 7221 operations

2011 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

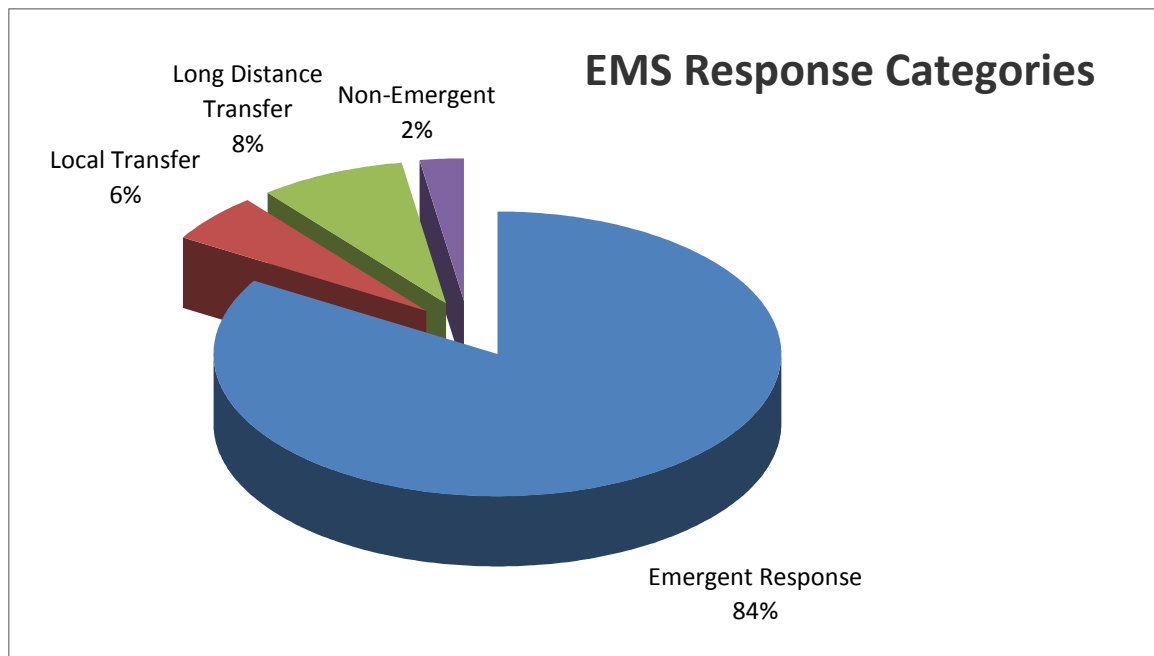
The Aberdeen Fire Department responded to 4,020 medical calls during the year 2011, which is a 6.5% drop in call volume over the previous year but represents an increase of 8.6% over the past ten years. The graph below illustrates the Aberdeen Fire Department's emergency medical call volume over the past ten years.



RESPONSE CATEGORIES:

Medical responses are grouped into four categories based on their dispatch urgency and destination. The first category is emergent responses which totaled 3,358 and accounted for 83.5% of our total EMS call volume. Emergent responses are calls that are dispatched through the Grays Harbor E911 center to our department. Our average response time, from time of dispatch to arrival on scene, within the city limits of Aberdeen was 4 minutes and 17 seconds. We did see a drop in our response time of 33 seconds from last year. The second category is local transfers of patients between Grays Harbor Community Hospital and skilled nursing facilities, home residences and diagnostic testing facilities within the city limits of Aberdeen. We performed 201 local transfers which accounted for 5.7% of the total call volume, this is a 2% drop from the previous year and can be attributed to new policies we put in place to help minimize the amount of unfunded local transfers. This is provided by our on-duty crew which staffs the headquarters fire apparatus. It is important to note that while the fire apparatus crew is engaged on local transfers the apparatus they are assigned to is out of service for fire calls. The third category is long distance or out of town transfers from Grays Harbor Community Hospital to hospitals in Olympia, Tacoma and Seattle. Off duty personnel are utilized to accomplish these transfers and the Aberdeen Fire Department did 332 of them for 8.3% of the total call volume. This figure translates into approximately 3,320 man-hours above their regularly scheduled shift work. The fourth category is non-emergent or public assists of which we did 102 for 2.4% of the total. Public assists consist of welfare checks, lift assists, falls without injuries or general assistance to our customers who do not

require an emergent response from an ambulance. The EMS response categories are shown below.



It should be noted, during the past year the Aberdeen Fire Department provided mutual aid emergency medical response to the City of Hoquiam 10 times and twice for Montesano Fire Department. The Hoquiam Fire Department provided mutual aid to the City of Aberdeen 9 times over the past year; South Beach Ambulance and Fire District 2 also responded mutual aid once.

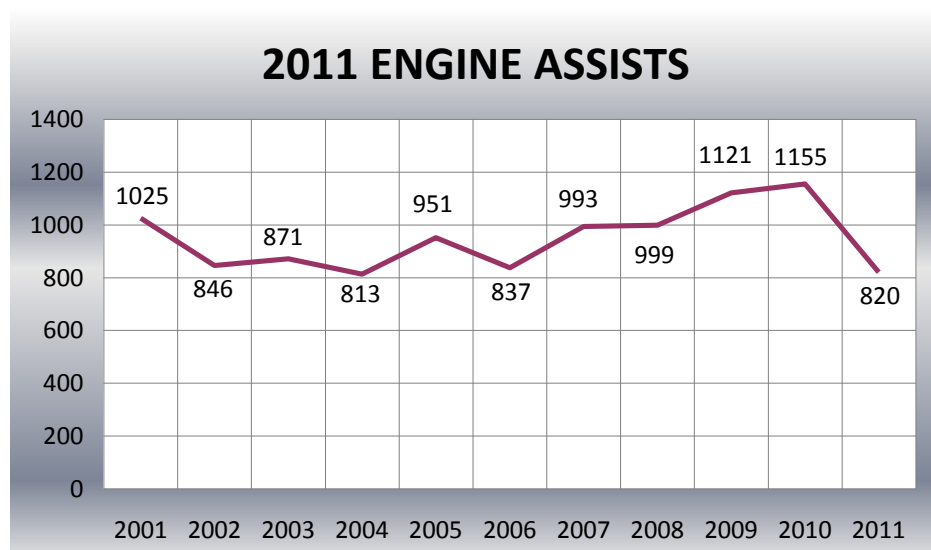
Overall, our Total Responses saw a decline which can mostly be attributed to the decrease in local transfers by 1% and our emergent responses by 2%. The local transfers declined due to new policies we implemented to improve our compliance with Medicare policies. The decline in emergent responses has many factors that could be involved, such as: fluctuations in population, changes in the economy, more assistance programs that decrease the need for emergency medical care and it is possible that we have seen our peak in emergency responses and are now starting to average out the volume of calls.

RESPONSE STATISTICS:

The Aberdeen Fire Department collects data annually to assist us in maintaining an efficient operation that is responsive to the needs of our customers. One of our data collection points is Engine Assists of which we did 820. An engine assist occurs when a fire apparatus responds with the headquarters or South Side Station #2 ambulance on medical calls. The EMS calls that the fire apparatus respond to require additional man-power to meet the needs of the patient. These calls range from cardiac arrests,

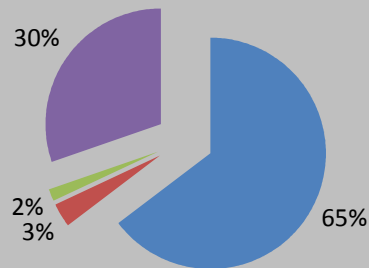
respiratory problems and strokes to motor vehicle accidents with injuries and severe trauma calls. It is important to note that while the fire apparatus is engaged on the medical call it is out of service for fire response until it has cleared from the previous call. This cross-staffing of personnel is what allows the Aberdeen Fire Department to manage such a high call volume with minimum staffing, but the trade off is that our ability to manage a fire incident is at times throughout the day significantly impacted. We also saw a 28% drop in the amount of engine assists we did last year leaving our fire personnel available more often to respond immediately for a fire response.

The following graphs depict engine assists, level of medical care provided and our EMS responses both inside and outside the city limits.

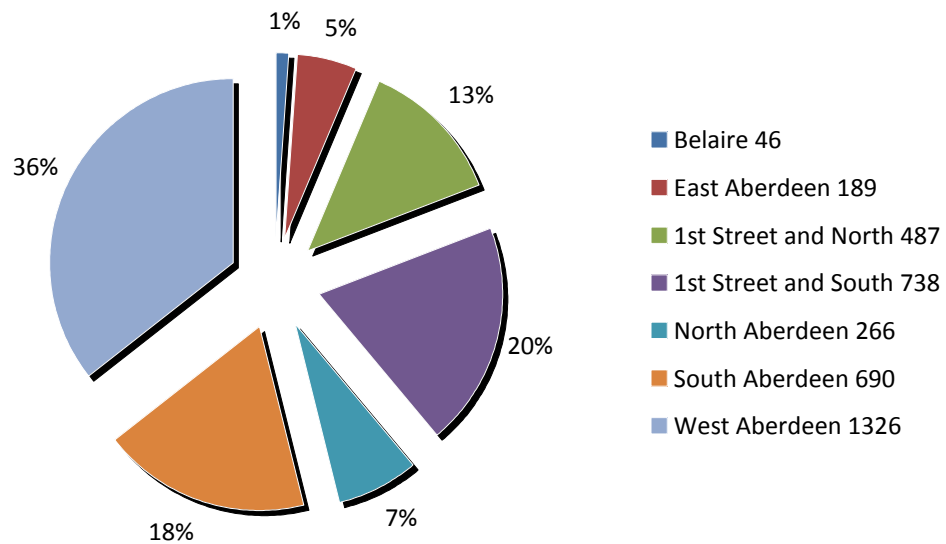


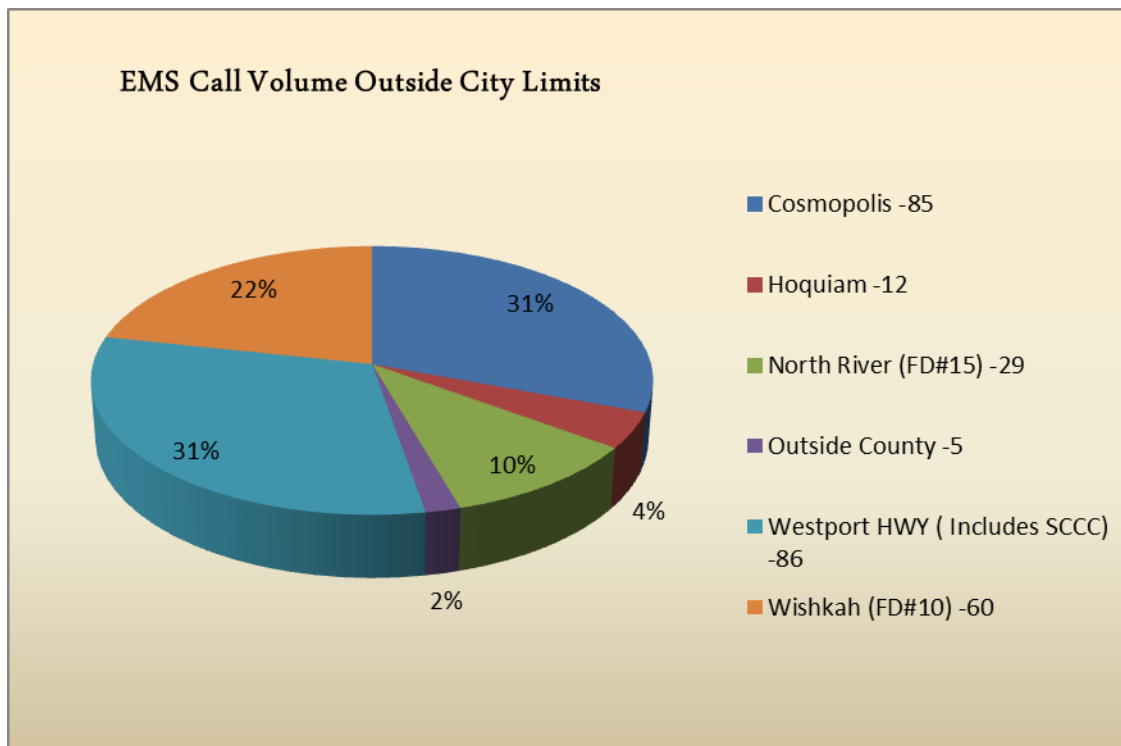
EMS Level of Care 2011

■ ALS 1705 ■ ALS II 88 ■ SCT 47 ■ BLS 799



EMS Calls within the City limits 2011

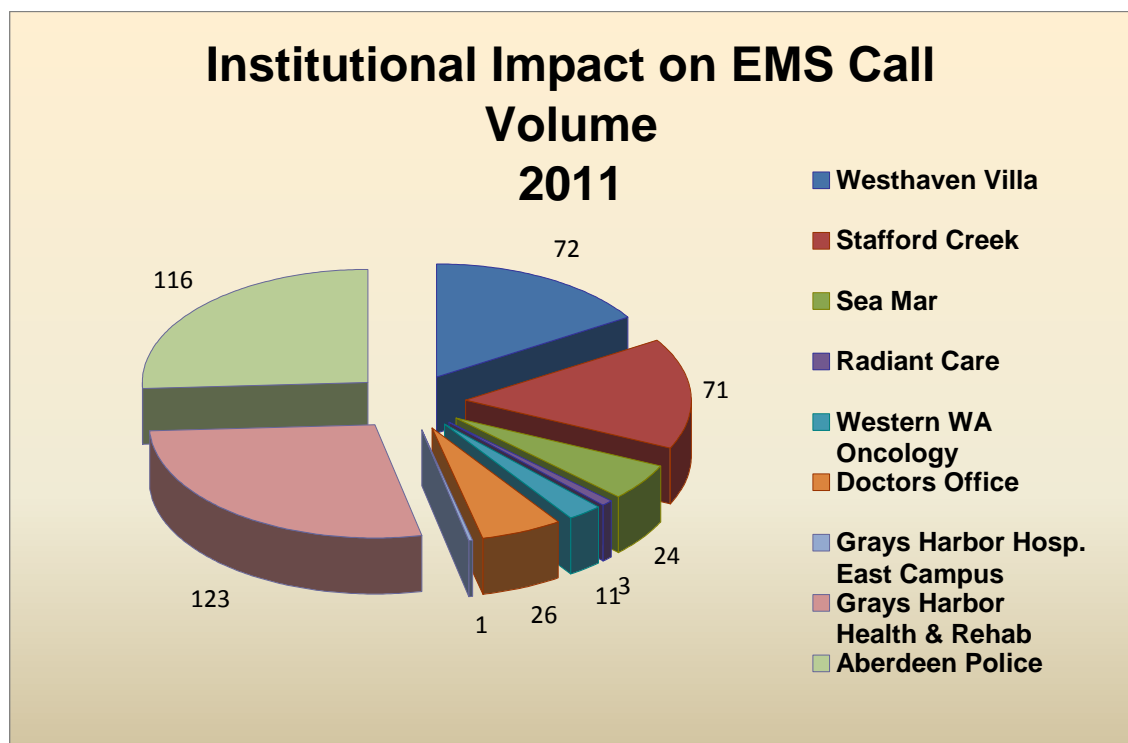
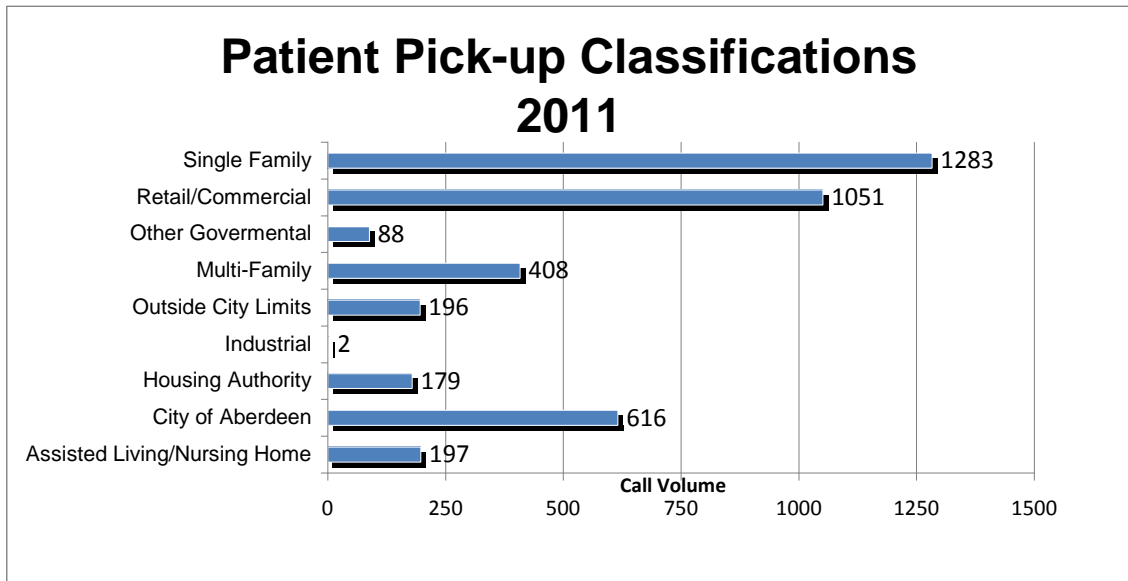




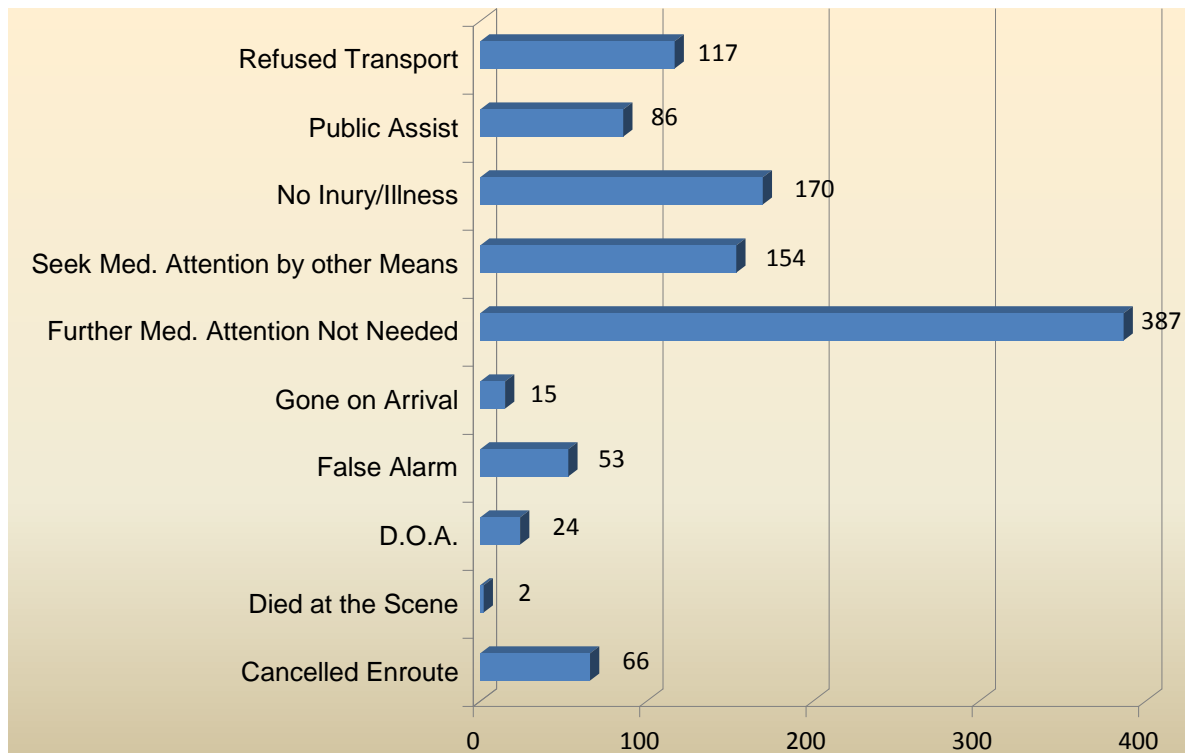
GRANTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS:

During the past year the Aberdeen Fire Department received \$1,738.00 from the Washington State Pre-Hospital Trauma Participation Grant which is designed to help offset the high cost of providing trauma care. We were also awarded a grant through the EMS transit grant program in the amount of \$3,014.34 which allowed us to purchase a LifePac 1000 AED that we now keep on our South Side engine. Our new AED gives us the ability to better care for cardiac patients when we have a lone paramedic responding on our fire apparatus from the South Side station. The Grays Harbor Emergency Medical Services Council is also instrumental in managing the money allocated by Grays Harbor Transit specifically for basic and advanced life support training that our personnel are mandated to receive by Washington State. Without these funds our ability to fulfill the training requirements would be severely impacted due to the present economic climate. Our largest grant we received last year was from FEMA, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant. We received \$60,000 to purchase two LifePac 15 monitor/defibrillators and were required to match 3% or \$3,000 of the total amount. These monitor/defibrillators replaced two pieces of equipment that were not up to the current standards for providing patient care to cardiac patients and repair parts were no longer available.

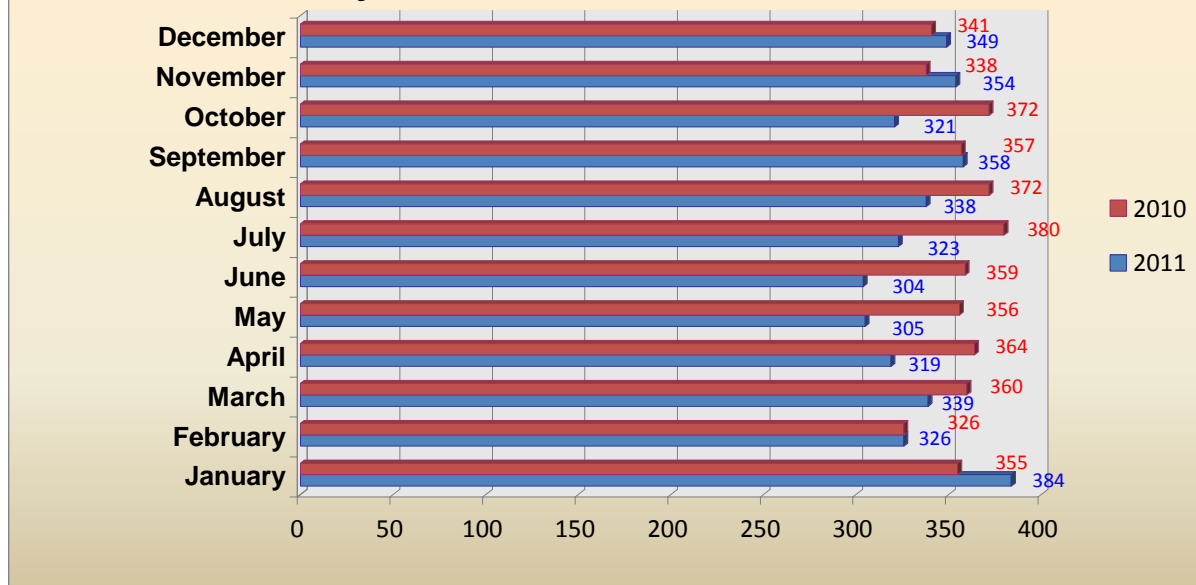
SUPPLEMENTAL GRAPHS:



No Transport Reasons



Monthly EMS Call Volume 2011 vs 2010



MEDICAL SAVES:

During the past year the Aberdeen Fire Department documented 88 medical saves. We qualify a patient as a medical save if the patient arrives alive at Grays Harbor Community Hospital and the patient's condition most likely would have resulted in their death in the field had our crews not intervened.

OUTLOOK FOR 2012:

The Aberdeen Fire Department will continue to provide the highest quality emergency medical care to our patients with the core values of professionalism and compassion guiding our actions. We will also strive to provide the highest level of care while being good stewards of the tax dollars which we receive. We will be implementing a new patient care reporting system which will benefit us in a couple of different ways. This new system will help our crews better document the different aspects of patient care while our administrative staff will be able to use this system to facilitate the billing aspect for our EMS calls. We will also be starting the process of planning re-chassis of our oldest medic unit which we should take delivery of in the beginning of 2013. One major change we will see is the implementation of our new County protocols for ST Elevated Myocardial Infarction/Stroke patients. When we have a patient with this type of medical issue, we are taking these patients directly to St. Peters Hospital after a brief stop at Grays Harbor Community. This can directly impact our ability to respond to calls for service in our response area initially until we can back fill with off-duty personnel.

Engineer/Paramedic Ryan Knodel
Department Emergency Medical Coordinator

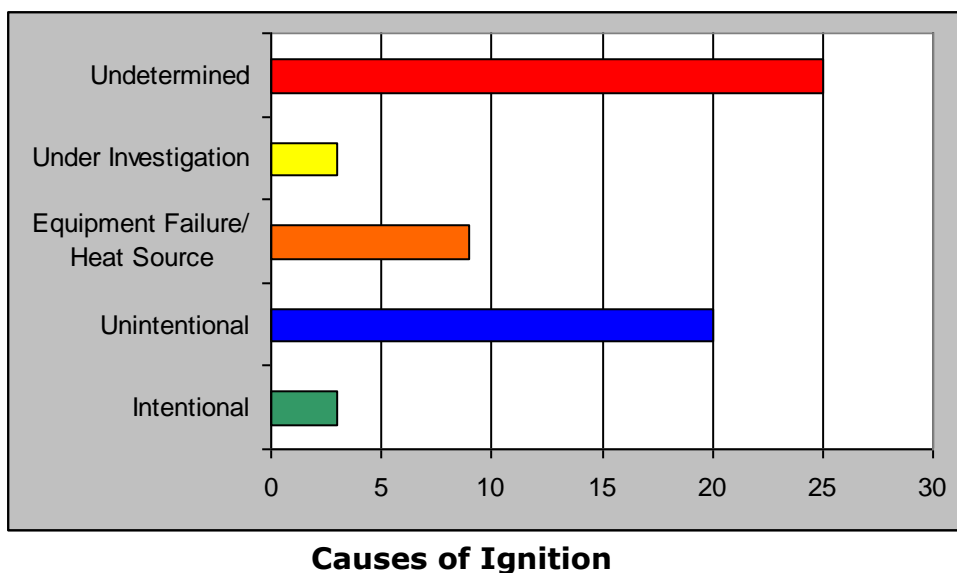
2011 FIRE INVESTIGATION/CODE ENFORCEMENT

2011 was a year with \$1,087,106 in fire losses. This is a decrease when compared to \$1,357,503 fire loss in 2010. Overall involved property equaled \$1,805,903. The value of property saved in these events represents \$718,797.

This fire loss represents 113 fires with sustained damage to a Residence, Motor Vehicle, Recreational Vehicle, Dumpster or Outdoor burning. During any fire the investigation starts immediately upon arrival at the scene. The officer in charge begins the investigation process by gathering information from witnesses, occupants or neighbors. He will examine the fire scene, make a determination of origin and cause, or call for the assistance of the Assistant Chief or our Investigation Team if they are needed. A more complicated fire scene often requires an Investigation Team to determine origin and cause of a fire. If the cause is determined to be arson the Aberdeen Police Department will conduct a criminal investigation of the fire scene in conjunction with our investigators.

The first arriving firefighters also make observations such as fire location, smoke and flame color, heat intensity, and ease or difficulty of extinguishment.

All fires in our community are investigated and many of these are a simple interview or an obvious answer to the cause of the problem. Last year 61 incidents required more than a simple investigation of the origin and cause of the fire. These investigations are implemented when the cause or origin is not readily apparent. A summary of these investigation results are represented in the following graph.



As you can see a large majority of fires are unintentional or accidental. Several fires remain under investigation while collected evidence is analyzed or investigations continue with the Aberdeen Police Department. This can take time to complete and in some cases the cause cannot be determined.

Unfortunately not all fires can be investigated. Safety of our personnel is always assessed at every incident during and after a fire. A good example is when the

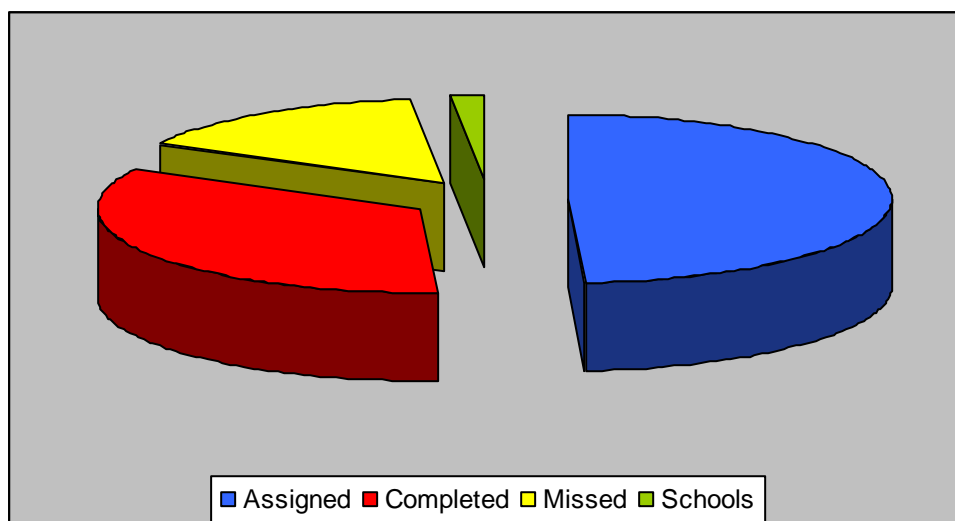
structure has so much damage the second story floor and roof structural members are burned or missing after the fire is extinguished, or a building's stability is compromised by the intense heat of a fire. When walls or floors are compromised we often utilize the Building Department inspectors to help examine the structure and assess the building for potential collapse issues and the safety aspect for our firefighters. In some incidents we find it is unsafe to enter the building for any further investigations due to the amount of damage.

In these instances an investigation may be accomplished from the outside of the structure or equipment may need to be brought to the scene and a systematic approach of dismantling the hazard prior to the investigation may occur.

Business inspections are done throughout the community in compliance with the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau and International Fire Code requirements. This office schedules the business inspections for the City and they are performed throughout the year by our on duty firefighters. Business inspections conducted by our fire department accomplish several things. It is a component of the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau requirements for the area insurance rating. The inspections educate the firefighters on building construction, emergency access routes and special hazards related to a particular business or buildings; we call this Pre-fire Planning. Firefighters will also advise the business managers of fire hazards that are found during the visit and give advice on how to correct the situation to maintain Fire Code compliance. There are roughly 800 businesses listed in our files for the city. With the fire department running a total of **5,232** calls, trying to fit the business inspections into the daily schedule of the on duty staff has been a difficult task. Each of the three shifts is assigned approximately 50 business inspections to complete during the year. Two-Thirds of the scheduled inspections were completed in 2011 including most of the Aberdeen School District buildings.

Business Inspections

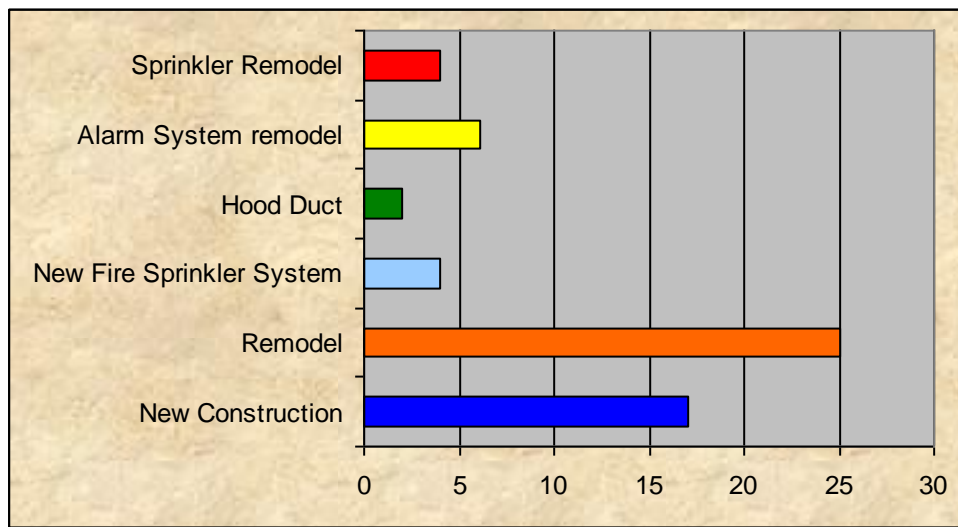
The graph below shows **2011** inspection program.



Not included in this chart are non-scheduled inspections requested by business owners. Several of these are for state licensing requirements and insurance needs. This year's schedule of inspections was hampered by the calls for service in the community and extra work assigned to the administration building remodel.

This office is also involved with the Planning and Building Departments of the City of Aberdeen. We offer comments on new developments, requirements for Fire Department access to the area and hydrant placement. Building plans are routed to us for review of fire code compliance; fire sprinkler systems and fire alarm systems. The architect's drawings are reviewed for fire code compliance, sprinkler and alarm component placement.

Most plan reviews fit into one of the five topics listed in the chart below. This graph depicts the variety of plan reviews for 2011:



Plan Review

Plan review is followed with on scene site verification, which is done during and near completion of the project. The inspections are a confirmation that components are in place, working and installed as the plans intended. This is done with one or several visits to a job site depending on the components of the building plans and the time table for the completed project.

A Certificate of Occupancy may be issued after the permit process is completed and the permits are signed, meeting the compliance of the International Fire Code, NFPA and other building code requirements.

Assistant Chief
Rich Malizia

2011 TRAINING REPORT

For the year 2011, the Aberdeen Fire Department training program continued to promote and maintain cognitive and manipulative learning at a quality and standard necessary to enhance the knowledge and skills that Fire and EMS personnel rely upon for incident mitigation, safety, and community service. I would like to take this opportunity to commend all personnel for their efforts and participation in helping to maintain an effective and progressive training program. It goes without saying that training and safety are considered two of the most important aspects of our profession. It takes the cooperation and participation of all individuals involved to make the goals and objectives, established through training and safety, relevant to our Department needs, as well as the needs of our community.

To provide for a comprehensive department training program that optimizes performance without overwhelming a single individual, three employees were assigned to administer specific components of the program. This approach promotes efficiency and prevents any elements of the program to lapse. The following is a breakdown of the Training Program and the individuals assigned to manage these sections:

- Captain Dulin (Captain Montz assist)
 - Out of Department Continuing Education
 - Officer Development
- Captain Golding
 - Record Keeping
 - Probationary Firefighter program
 - Employee Evaluations
 - Promotional Exams
- Captain Montz (Captain Golding)
 - In-House Training

The premise and implementation of the Aberdeen Fire Department Training program is based upon training and safety guidelines, standards, and mandates on both a State and Federal level. The goal is to produce an effective and desirable program that is capable of reaching training needs and still remain compatible with the needs of the day-to-day operations within the Fire Department.

Although the basic principles of the Fire and EMS service remain the same, the environment we work in is constantly changing. The profession requires constant re-evaluation of processes and techniques to provide for maximum safety as well as risk reduction without compromising the ability to respond to the needs of our community. This is achieved through training. The objective of a training program is to enhance both the cognitive and manipulative skills of an individual on any given subject through the process of instruction, activity, and evaluation. As in the past, much of the training for 2011 was conducted within the confines of the firehouse.

The following are reports submitted by each of the Training Division Managers:

**In-House Training Delivery, Record Keeping,
Probationary Firefighter Program & Promotional Testing
Captain Golding**

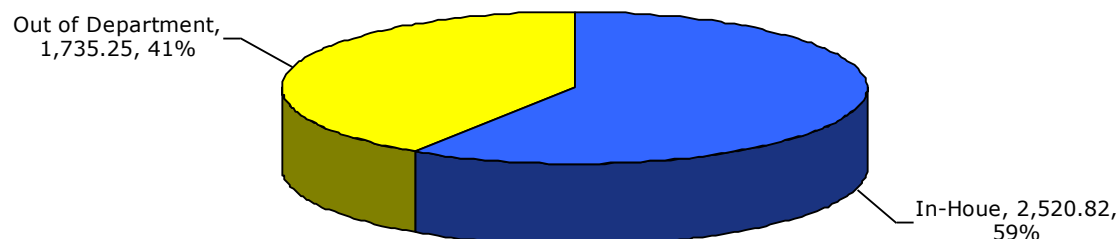
Monthly Training/Records Management

It was another busy year for the training division of the Aberdeen Fire Department as we continued our efforts to keep up on State mandated training and to acquire valuable instruction in the latest fire and emergency medical service practices. Highlights of the Aberdeen Fire Department's monthly training include...

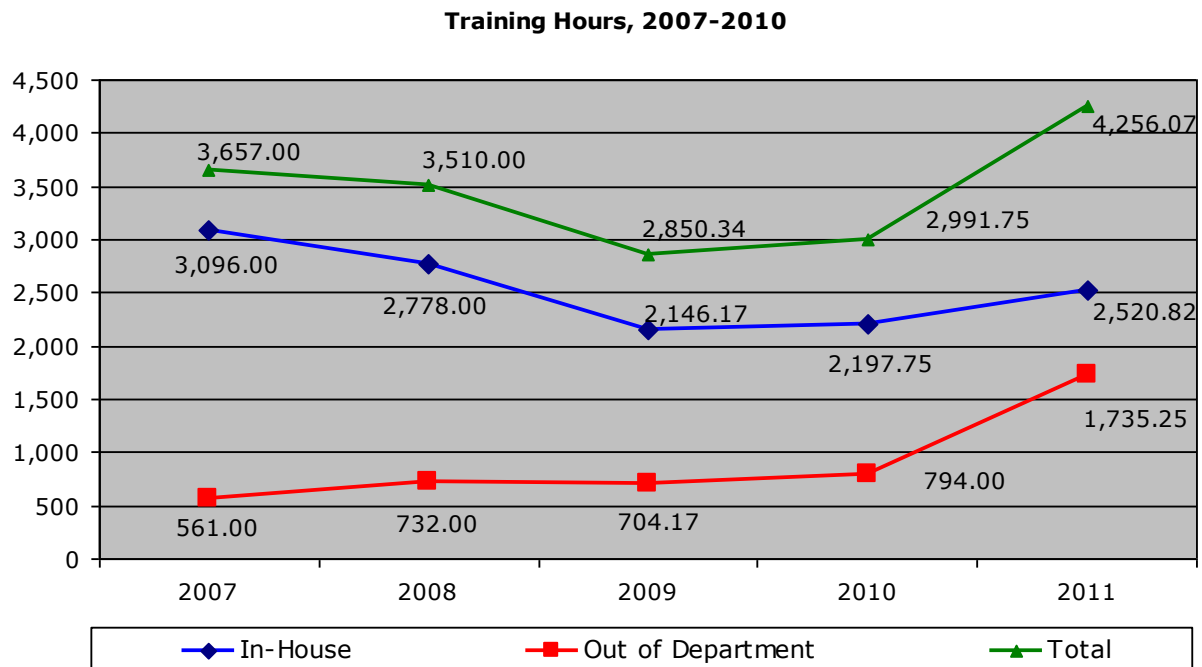
- Quarterly Safety Training
- Quarterly Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Training
- Policy and Procedure/Operational Reviews
- Incident Command System/Incident Management
- Multi-Company Training with Hoquiam Fire Department
- Fire Apparatus Training
- Live Fire Evolutions
- Hazardous Materials Operations and Decontamination
- Emergency Vehicle Accident Prevention
- Basic and Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Training

The monthly in-house training program is designed by the Department's training team and is administered by the Department's Fire Captains. These Captains are responsible in ensuring the delivery of all training to the members under their supervision. In 2011, members of the Aberdeen Fire Department performed a total of **4,256** hours of training. This represents a 4.2% increase over the total number of hours in 2010. Of this number, **1,735** hours were accomplished outside of the department while the remaining **2,520** hours were completed in-house. All of this was achieved while keeping pace with the Fire Department's ever increasing demands for service.

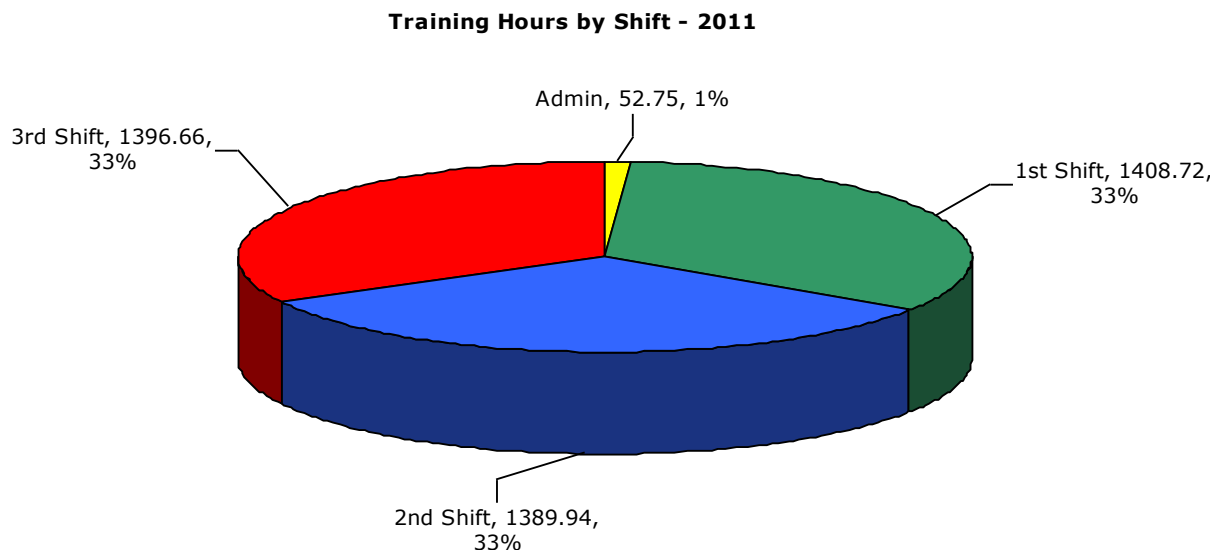
In-House vs. Out of Department Training - 2011



These numbers also represent an increase of 16.4% in the total number of training hours from 5 years ago. The following chart illustrates this trend.



The 4,256 hours of training performed in 2011 are broken down among the department's administration and three shifts as follows:

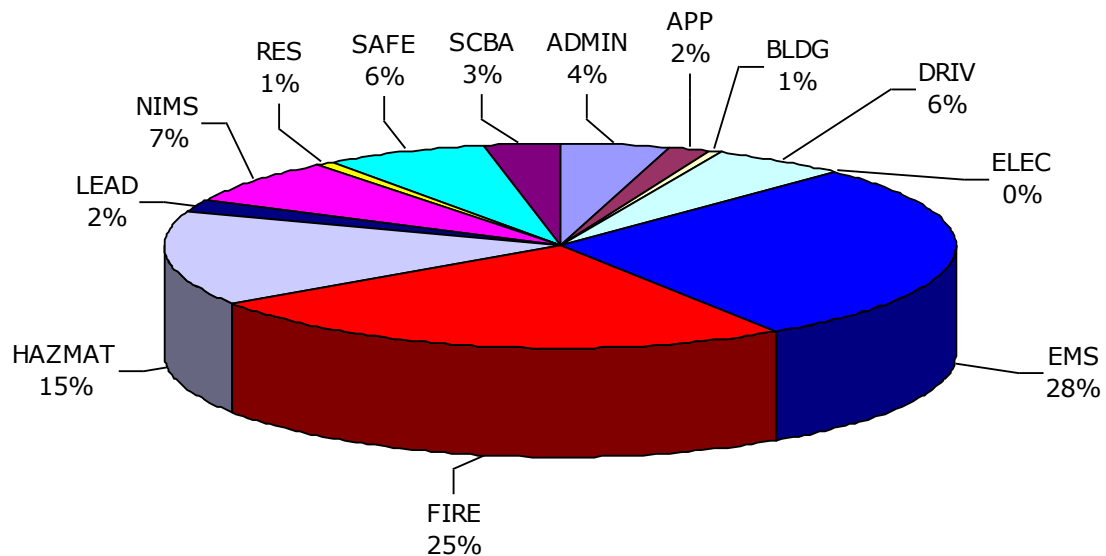


Training conducted by the shift firefighters of the Aberdeen Fire Department represents an average of 1,401 among each of the Department's three shifts, or 127 per firefighter for 2011.

The training performed covered a wide range of topics. Training is grouped into the following categories with their corresponding hours for record keeping purposes:

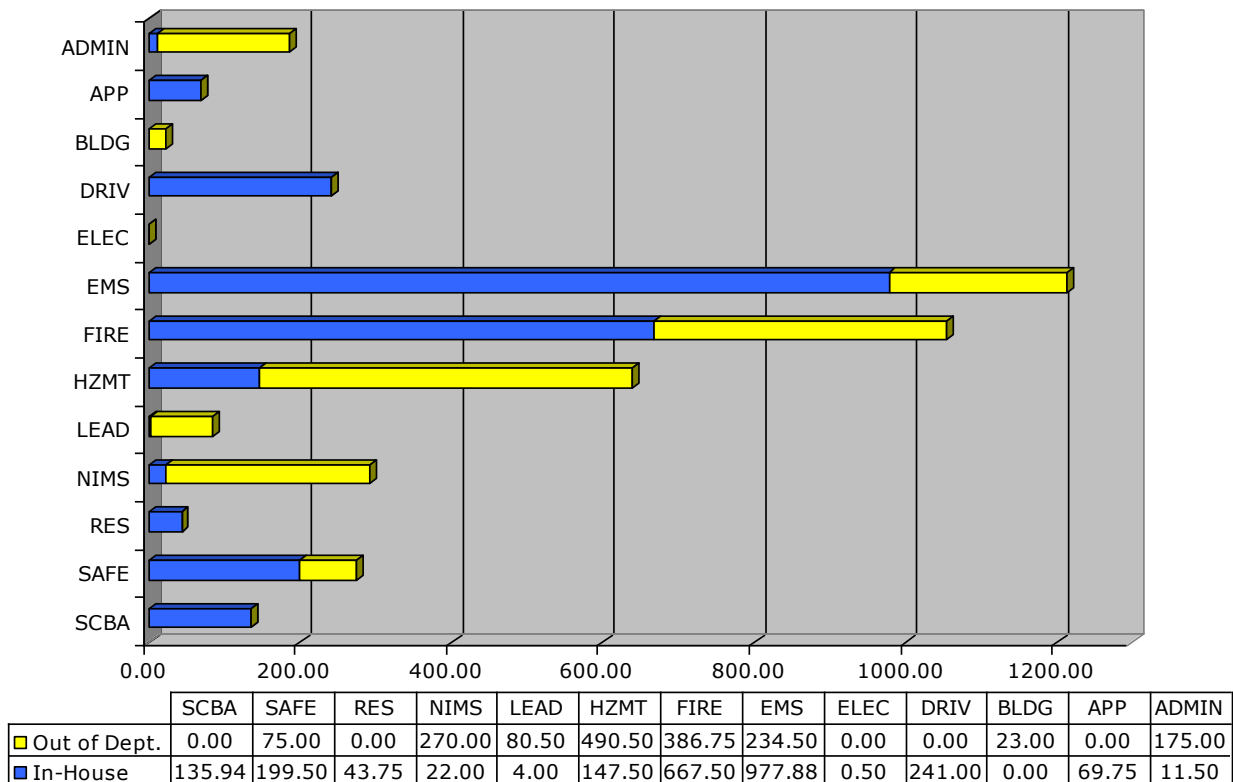
1. Administrative – **187 Hours** – This is training that deals with departmental organization, policies and executive management.
2. Apparatus – **70 Hours** – Training that covers the operation of the various aspects of the department's firefighting vehicles.
3. Building – **23 Hours** – This training covers the area of building construction and the effects on firefighting efforts.
4. Driver – **241 Hours** – Training, both in a classroom setting and in the field, that entails the actual driving of department apparatus.
5. Electric – **0.50 Hours** – This type of training covers general electrical safety as it pertains to the firefighter.
6. EMS – **1,217 Hours** – Any training that covers matters related to Emergency Medical Services.
7. Fire – **1,062 Hours** – Classes that cover the various aspects of firefighting.
8. Haz-Mat – **638 Hours** – Training that covers the firefighter's role in responding to incidents that involve hazardous materials.
9. Leadership – **78 Hours** – Any training that deals with the development of leadership skills of the members of our department.
10. NIMS – **292 Hours** – Mandated training in the area of the National Incident Management System.
11. Rescue – **44 Hours** – Topics that cover training involving rescue situations, such as auto extrication.
12. Safety – **275 Hours** – General safety related training.
13. SCBA – **136 Hours** – This includes any training that has to deal with a firefighter's self-contained breathing apparatus.

Training Hours by Category - 2011



The following graph depicts the break down of these various training categories into the respective hours received in-house versus out of department.

Training by Category, In-House vs. Out of Department, 2011



Probationary Firefighter Training

During 2011 two new firefighters joined the Aberdeen Fire Department. During their initial probationary year these firefighters are continually evaluated to ensure adequate performance. These individuals must obtain and process a great deal of information in order to operate in an effective and safe manner as part of the firefighting team. Each probationary firefighter receives a handbook containing various training items they must complete within the first year. In addition to these training requirements, their performance is evaluated by their officers. The evaluations are done monthly and take into consideration the following aspects of their performance:

1. Attitude
2. Relations with others
3. Attendance
4. Appearance
5. Job Learning/Skills Improvement
6. Quality of Work

Also, as part of the above, probationary firefighters are tested monthly on a predetermined list of topics, such as:

- Policies and Procedures
- Maps
- Apparatus Inventory

All of this translates into a very busy year for probationary firefighters and their officers.

Entry Level Testing

In 2011 the department conducted an entry level test for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic to establish an eligibility list for future vacancies in the firefighter/paramedic ranks. During this process we evaluated six candidates that were ranked based on their performance within the testing process. We feel this process yielded the Department a list of strong candidates to fill future firefighter/paramedic positions as needed.

Promotional Testing

The Aberdeen Fire Department held two promotional exams in 2011. In May, the Department held a promotional examination for the position of Fire Battalion Chief. This exam was performed to create a promotional eligibility list as well as to establish a list for individuals to work out of class within the rank as needed. The promotional exam included the assessment of each candidate on a variety of dimensions, including...

- Incident Command
- Recourse Management
- Public Relations
- Employee Interaction/Management
- Problem Solving – Oral and Written
- Presentation Skills
- Time Management

In addition to the Battalion Chief's exam, the Department held a promotional exam for the position of Fire Captain in October. As with the previous test, this was conducted to establish an eligibility list for future promotions as well as for acting out of classification. This examination assessed each candidate's abilities in a wide range of areas. The exercises performed by these individuals included...

- Tactical Exercise: In this assessment candidates were evaluated on their ability to command the initial stages of a residential structure fire. They were graded on their knowledge of the incident command system, fire ground tactics, fire ground safety and communication skills.
- Presentation Skills: Candidates were evaluated on their ability to perform a presentation in a public education setting. The dimensions assessed included speaking skills, time management and public education knowledge.
- Employee Interaction: In this section candidates were given a fictional probationary firefighter who required an evaluation. The information provided reflected an individual who had performance issues, as well as concerns pertaining to his previous officers. Candidates were evaluated on their problem solving skills and written communications.

- Interview: Candidates were interviewed by a panel and answered a number of pre-selected questions. Here the candidates were evaluated on their knowledge of department operations as well as their oral interview skills.

In 2012 the Department will consider scheduling a promotional exam for the position of Fire Driver/Engineer.

Out of Department Continuing Education & Officer Development Captain Dulin/Captain Montz

The Training council sent 22 Aberdeen Fire Department personnel to 54 "Out of Department Training Events" totaling 117 days of training. In addition, two personnel attended a 15 day training academy totaling 60 hours each. These classes ranged from four hours to a full week. Some of the classes were mandatory to ensure that our personnel remained certified in their specialized field; others were to educate our personnel as instructors to train our department in current methods and methodology; while still others were to obtain new information on the ever-evolving standards in the fire service. Some of the courses were as follows:

- NIMS 400 (Unified Command)
- NIMS 300 (Intermediate Command)
- Community Professionalism
- Washington State IFSAC Certified Haz-Mat
- Incident Safety Officer
- Officer Development
- Nozzle Forward
- Fire Training Academy Instructor 1
- Captains College
- Critical Care Transport
- Implementing WA State Fire Fighter Safety Standards WAC 296-305
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support
- Pediatric Advanced Care
- Advanced Fire Investigation
- Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention
- Line of Duty Death
- Rapid Intervention Team
- Integrated Tactical Accountability System
- Leadership I, II, & III
- Fire Officer I
- Firefighter I & Firefighter II
- Preparation for Initial Company Operations
- Evaluator Training

The necessity of our continued education is expressly for the safety of the public we serve, our personal safety, the fulfillment of legal obligations, and the progression of our department. It cannot be under estimated the importance of this program. Our dedicated personnel share this opinion, and attended a vast majority of the offered

classes on their own time. As professionals we thank you for the opportunity to serve this community and the surrounding areas. It is with skill, knowledge, professionalism, and confidence that The Aberdeen Fire Department serves you.

“Train as you fight, Fight as you’re trained”

Damon Lillybridge, B.C.-Training Coordinator

2011 SAFETY & HEALTH PROGRAM REPORT

The Aberdeen Fire Department Safety Committee uses continuous improvement processes to work towards eliminating the number and severity of injuries and illnesses to fire personnel, both during routine operations and during training and emergency response. The Safety Committee utilizes safety and situational awareness, training, standard operating procedures, and implementing procedures and lessons learned through accident investigation.

Members of the Safety Committee include Battalion Chief Damon Lillybridge (Department Health and Safety Officer), Captain Wallace Montz, Firefighter Jeremy Laier and Assistant Fire Chief Rich Malizia.

In 2011, the Department's Safety Officer processed 10 injury reports involving department personnel. The injuries resulted in 53 shifts of missed work. Examples of injuries include back sprain/strain from lifting and moving patients, laceration to hand during fire overhaul, knee injuries during fire scene operations, exposures on EMS scenes and a dog bite.

Firefighters respond to incidents in all types of environmental conditions at any time of the day or night. Personal protective clothing and continuous training minimizes the risks of a firefighter being injured on the job; however, firefighting duties are often high hazard tasks with the potential for injury.

In April of 2011, the department Safety Officer was accepted into and was able to attend a National Fire Academy Course on "Advanced Safety Operations" in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This course was designed by the United States Fire Administration to enhance safety at the fire ground and other emergency scenes as well as managing and maintaining a comprehensive accident prevention program. During participation in the program there was an opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills on how to prepare a site-specific Safety and Health plan; identify and cause correction of occupational safety and health hazards; continuously monitor firefighters for exposure to safety or health hazardous conditions; take appropriate action to mitigate or eliminate unsafe conditions, operations, or hazards; and perform assessment of engineering controls and personal protective equipment.

Other Safety Program involvement for 2011 includes:

- Implementation of IAFF Traffic Hazard Training
- Participation in achieving automatic response with Hoquiam on all structure fires
- Annual Hearing Tests for all personnel
- June 2011 Safety Stand Down

Future goals for the Safety and Health Program for 2012 include:

- * *Compliance with existing as well as any new L&I 305 Standards that may be implemented.*
- * *Continued Safety Training.*
 - Shipboard firefighting
 - Combustible dust explosions
- * *Building repair and modification to promote healthy work environment to include:*
 - Replace rear apron concrete at HQ station
 - Redesign and modification of the HQ downstairs administrative area to accommodate a functional training area.

In conclusion, the goal of the Aberdeen Fire Department Safety Program is to provide a safe and healthy workplace environment by meeting and, in many cases, exceeding the recognized standards set forth by various government and private organizations such as OSHA, Labor & Industries, and the National Fire Protection Agency. To accomplish this goal, the Aberdeen Fire Department recognizes the need to utilize and apply risk analysis to day-to-day activities and emergency incident operations. Training also plays a vital role in an individual's ability to understand and perform his/her duties with safety as a priority. Effective management and consistency contribute to the continued development of individual safety awareness.

The success of a Safety and Health Program can be measured through the attitudes and actions portrayed at both an individual level and a department as a whole. The Aberdeen Fire Department takes safety and health very serious. We are committed to providing all individuals the mental and physical tools necessary to safely and effectively perform their duties and still walk away after each shift to enjoy the benefits of a normal and healthy quality of life.

Damon Lillybridge, Battalion Chief

Department Safety Officer

2011 WATER SUPPLY REPORT

Water Supply deals with identifying the need and purchasing of new equipment, reviewing new ideas or concepts, and dealing with requests from the Chief or other officers. The requests are usually related to improving our ability to extinguish fire more efficiently. With past support from the Chief of the department, we have been able to budget for the future, spending money now, to keep costs down later. The water supply team consists of Battalion Chief Bill Mayne, Captain JR Streifel, Engineer Chris Eisele, and Engineer Chad Mittleider.

Water Supply's efforts for the past year have covered the following areas:

- The purchase of 11 lengths of 2½", 2 lengths of 4" LDH, and 2 lengths of 1 ¾" hose.
- The purchase of an additional ProPak portable foam delivery system. We've had one unit for a number of years (carried on 7221) and the additional unit was placed on 7205 to make it more useful as a first out responding apparatus.
- The purchase of an additional 1¾" Task Force Tip nozzle. The current inventory of these nozzles is becoming quit old. They see hard service as the first use nozzle for the majority of our structure fire attacks.
- Nozzle and fitting maintenance was maintained in 2011.

Future plans of Water Supply include:

- Additional purchase of hose to maintain a modern inventory.
- Purchase of a new master stream device called a "Blitzfire" Nozzle.
- Continued maintenance to keep up with the usage of our equipment.
- We may need to consider the purchase of a new hose tester. The issue of jointly owning the current unit with Fire District #2 recently came about. The current unit has many years of service and this may be a good time to purchase our own unit and give District #2 the current tester.
- Servicing of the LDH on 7221 and 7206 will be a focus for Water Supply, in 2012. Several issues arose during 2011 regarding this hose and Water Supply will make an effort to address these concerns.

The Water Supply Team's mission is to ensure that our fire suppression is accomplished in a fast, efficient, and safe manner. We will do this with the acquisition of modern equipment and improve our operations by reviewing our standard operating procedures and guidelines.

Battalion Chief Bill Mayne

2011 PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Public Education Division had a great year in 2011. After budget constraints of the past, we were once again able to participate in National Fire Prevention Week. During National Fire Prevention Week firefighters visit all of the grade schools in Aberdeen. While at the schools children from kindergarten through third grade are taught about fire safety, home escape plans, smoke detectors, disaster awareness, injury prevention, etc. This year was a great success and as always the firefighters were received warmly by the Aberdeen School District and St. Mary's School.

As always we were able to provide the following public education services as part of our daily operations:

- Fire Extinguisher Classes
- Pre-School Visits
- Smoke Detector Installations
- Bicycle Helmet Fitting
- Aberdeen School District Career Days
- Station Tours
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Safety Fairs

We look forward to the coming year and the opportunity to once again share our important message of fire safety and injury prevention.

Captain Kelly Niemi

**Chiefs note – The department was able to re-establish public education in the elementary schools due to the revenue now being collected from our involvement in mitigating hazardous materials spills. Through a vendor source we are able to collect revenue through hazmat cleanups which are usually the result of an auto accident. Through Captain Niemi's leadership, our public education efforts are a great success with school children.*

2011 APPARATUS INVENTORY

Station 1 (Headquarters) 700 W. Market Street

UNIT	SHOP #	TYPE
(Battalion 7232)	93	2002 Ford Excursion 4X4 Command Unit
(Truck 7221)	91	2001 Pierce 105'HD Aerial-1500 GPM
(Engine 7205)	89	1994 Pierce 50'Telesquirt W/-1500 GPM
(Engine 7204)	87	1994 Pierce 1500 GPM Pumper
(Utility 7261)	150	2001 Ford/Horton Medic/Utility Unit (2005 Cargo Mate – Decon. /MCI Trailer)
(Medic 7241)	152	2010 Ford/Horton/Braun Medic Unit
(Medic 7243)	151	2007 Ford/Horton Medic Unit
(Medic 7244)	141	2004 Ford/Horton Medic Unit
(Chief 7251)	140	2007 Ford F 150 Staff Vehicle
(Chief 7200)	149	2005 Crown Victoria Staff Vehicle
(Fire Prevention)	510	1998 Chevrolet Astro Van

Station 2 (South Aberdeen) 700 W. Curtis Street

UNIT	SHOP #	TYPE
(Engine 7206)	90	2001 Pierce 1500 GPM C.A.F.S. Pumper
(Medic 7242)	151	2009 Ford/Braun Northstar Medic Unit

(All Pierce Fire Apparatus carry 1000' of 4" angus supply line, 1.75" "high combat" and 2.5" attack line w/Task Force Tip Nozzles)

(The inventory of equipment on our medic units is similar in arrangement and location)

2011 RADIO TEAM REPORT

This year five radio communications grants were applied for, and three of the five grants were awarded. One grant was awarded by Sierra Pacific which allowed us to purchase two HT portable radios at just under \$1,300.00 for the grant. The second grant awarded was from Grays Harbor County Emergency Management for the installation of new mobile radios on two of our fire apparatus so that they could be programmed for narrow band compliance. The third grant of \$1,600 was also from Grays Harbor Emergency Management to purchase various accessories and batteries for our portable radios.

In January, all of our radio equipment was reprogrammed for narrow band compliancy as required by the Federal Government.

The goals for 2011 were to secure grant monies to purchase additional portable radios and accessories to replace aging equipment, and to be compliant with the Federal Government's narrow band standards. These goals were met to the best of our ability considering the lean economy and highly competitive grant process.

The goals for 2012 are to utilize budgeted monies and possibly acquire more grant funds to continue the replacement of the older style radios and maintain the batteries and equipment we use to effectively communicate when emergencies come our way.

Respectfully,

Captain JR. Streifel, Radio Team

2011 CHAPLAIN REPORT

Another year and another great 12 months in association with a great organization dedicated to helping others. For this I am very grateful. Perhaps most of all it's because I've been down with an illness myself and have been helped by all of my comrades at the AFD. Yet it's been a good year and we have all been able to witness others who have also been helped by the AFD's good works.

I'm indeed looking forward to the years ahead and being part of the fire organization our fire department is.

Thanks to all for being the best.

Respectfully,

Dick Seaman, Chaplain